

REMARKS

Claims 1–11 and 38–43 are pending.

Election

The Examiner has identified the following species:

Species I: FIGS. 1B and 1C;

Species II: FIGS. 1D and 4B.

The Examiner characterizes that “the species are independent or distinct because one requires that the first lift platform comprises pins whereas the first means is excluded from comprising pins.” Applicants note that independent claim 38 recites in part that “neither the first means for directly supporting the substrate nor the second means for directly supporting the substrate comprises *lift pins*” (emphasis added). Applicants submit that this recitation does not exclude all pins, only *lift pins*, as the term is understood to one skilled in the art. Applicants submit that none of FIGS. 1B, 1C, 1D or 4B illustrates a lift pin, contrary to the Examiner’s characterization.

Applicants elect for prosecution **Species I** with traverse. Applicants submit that Species I includes claims 5–7 and that claim 1 generic thereto. Applicant further submits that claims 2–4 and that claims 8–11 should be rejoined when claim 1 is rejoined. Applicants submit that claim 38 is generic to Species I for at least the reason provided above, and that claims 39–43 should also be rejoined when claim 38 is rejoined.

No Disclaimers or Disavowals

Although the present communication may include alterations to the application or claims, or characterizations of claim scope or referenced art, the Applicants are not conceding in this application that previously pending claims are not patentable over the cited references. Rather, any alterations or characterizations are being made to facilitate expeditious prosecution of this application. The Applicants reserve the right to pursue at a later date any previously pending or other broader or narrower claims that capture any subject matter supported by the present disclosure, including subject matter found to be specifically disclaimed herein or by any prior prosecution. Accordingly, reviewers of this or any parent, child or related prosecution history shall not reasonably infer that the Applicants have made any disclaimers or disavowals of any subject matter supported by the present application.

Application No.: 10/775,522

Responsive to a paper dated January 22, 2008

Response filed February 22, 2008

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: February 22, 2008

By: 

Pui Tong Ho
Registration No. 44,155
Attorney of Record
Customer No. 20,995
(949) 760-0404

4859177_1
022208